GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Hannah Prays for a Child

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11



YOUR BIBLE READING

We may tell God our deepest sadness and gratitude.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Hannah Brings Her Sorrow to God

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11



Hannah was married to Elkanah, whose household traveled each year to worship at Shiloh. Another wife, Peninnah, had children, but Hannah had none. Peninnah repeatedly provoked her about it. Hannah was deeply hurt, wept, and found it hard to eat. Elkanah loved her and tried to speak to her sorrow. The passage does not hide the pain within the household behind the fact that they were traveling for worship.

At Shiloh, Hannah rose and prayed. Eli the priest sat near the entrance of the place of worship. Hannah was distressed and wept as she spoke to God. She asked for a son and made a vow that, if given one, she would give him to God's service throughout his life. Her prayer was quiet: her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Eli could see her mouth, not hear her words.

Eli misunderstood what he saw and thought she was drunk. He rebuked her. Hannah answered that she had not been drinking wine or strong drink. She was a woman in deep sorrow, pouring out her heart before God. She asked not to be judged as wicked, explaining that her prayer came from distress and provocation. Her answer gave Eli information he had not known when he first watched her lips moving.

Eli then told her to go in peace and blessed her request, asking that Israel's God grant what she had asked. Hannah went away and ate, and her face was no longer as sad. The family worshiped the next morning and returned to Ramah. The passage describes this change before it describes a child being born. Hannah had spoken honestly about her trouble, and the priest's mistaken judgment had been answered with the truth.

Remember: I can bring my honest feelings to God.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Samuel Is Born and Brought to Shiloh

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11



In time, Hannah had a baby boy. She named him Samuel, connecting his name with her request to God. When Elkanah and the household next went to offer the yearly sacrifice, Hannah stayed with her child. She explained that she would take him when he was weaned, no longer needing to nurse. Then he would remain at the place of worship according to the promise she had made. Elkanah agreed that she should wait.

Hannah cared for Samuel until that time came. Then she brought him to Shiloh with offerings. He was still young. She approached Eli and identified herself as the woman who had stood near him praying. She explained that this was the child she had asked for and that God had granted her request. Now she was giving him to God's service for his life, just as she had promised during her prayer.

Hannah prayed in praise of God. Her words looked beyond her own household. She spoke of God's holiness, knowledge, and power, and warned against proud speech. The strong and the weak, the full and the hungry, the wealthy and the poor all appeared in her song. She described God lifting the needy and giving strength. Her thanksgiving did not remain only an announcement that one wish had been granted to one person.

Elkanah returned home to Ramah, while Samuel served God before Eli the priest. This is where the reading ends. It records a particular answer to Hannah's prayer and a particular promise she had made. It does not say that everyone who longs for a child will receive the same answer. Hannah's sorrow deserved compassion before the birth, and the worth of any person or family does not depend on having children.

Pause and think: How can listening carefully change a first assumption about what another person is experiencing?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Listen Before Making a Judgment



Eli sees Hannah's moving lips and assumes he knows what is happening. Her explanation changes what he understands. In an ordinary example, a quiet classmate might be tired, worried, concentrating, or simply enjoying silence. Looking at them does not tell you which. What respectful question could you ask? You may also give someone room not to explain a private feeling if they do not wish to.

Hannah speaks about sorrow without pretending to be cheerful. You can tell a trusted adult when teasing or repeated comments hurt you. Asking for help is not making a fuss. Adults are responsible for addressing bullying and supporting children. Prayer, quiet thought, drawing, or conversation may help you express a feeling, but none should replace getting help when someone is causing you harm.

Promises need thought and care. Hannah's vow belongs to her ancient family story, not a rule that you must offer something to make God listen. Before making an everyday promise, think about what you can actually do and ask an adult if it is a big decision. An honest, realistic commitment is better than a dramatic promise made under pressure.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Hannah speaks honestly in sorrow, receives a particular answer, and keeps her promise when Samuel begins serving at Shiloh.

How can listening carefully change a first assumption about what another person is experiencing?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What was Hannah doing when Eli misunderstood her?

2. How did Hannah keep her promise?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Samuel was born.
- ☐ Hannah brought Samuel to Shiloh and thanked God.
- ☐ Hannah prayed in her sadness.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw Hannah praying quietly at Shiloh.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can bring my honest feelings to God.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: 1 Samuel 1:10-18

A thoughtful conversation

Hannah's experience is not a promise that prayer always brings a baby. Never connect infertility with personal failure, and explain that Samuel's living arrangement belongs to this particular ancient account.

Activity answers

1. She was praying silently and sharing her sorrow with God.
2. She brought Samuel to serve God at Shiloh.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, thank you that we can tell you how we feel. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 09_1Sa_01_02_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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